

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed January 7, 2005, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment, no additional claims are cancelled and claims 18-23 are added so that claims 14, 16, and 18-23 are pending and under examination. Claim 17 is withdrawn.

The invention is directed to a substrate treatment apparatus, particularly an apparatus used in stripping resist from semiconductor substrates using a gas flow including wet ozone. In this Amendment a limitation is removed from independent claim 14 and moved into a new dependent claim 19. In addition, the wet ozone-containing gas heating device of claim 14 is defined more particularly as relating to the heater within the header 5 of the embodiment of Figure 1, as described at page 8 of the patent application. This heater is distinguished from the conduit heater that is described in new claim 18 and corresponds to the ribbon heater 81 of the embodiment of Figure 1. These changes necessitate a change in the dependency of claim 16.

New claim 20 is supported by the second embodiment of the invention described with respect to Figure 4 at page 13 of the patent application. Claims 21, 22, and 23 are drawn from claims 18, 19, and 16, respectively.

Examined claims 14 and 16 were rejected as unpatentable of Koizumi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,503,708, hereinafter Koizumi), in view of Sawada (JP 5-13398), and further in view of Gray (U.S. Patent 5,350,480). These rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims now presented.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness, the threshold requirement is that each of the limitations of a claim must be described in one of the publications applied in rejecting the claim. No combination of Koizumi, Sawada, and Gray can include all of the limitations of either of the two presented independent claims, claims 14 and 20.

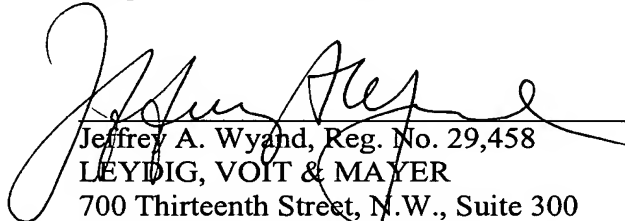
With regard to claim 14, none of the three publications relied upon describes a header containing a heater, and located as described in amended claim 14, for maintaining the temperature of the wet ozone-containing gas. This heater clearly supplements and supports the temperature increase provided, in the embodiment of Figure 1, by the ribbon heater 81 that heats the gas conduit. Thus, the heater within the header helps maintain the temperature of the wet ozone-containing gas as it is distributed from the supply device to the substrate being treated.

With regard to claim 20, there is no description in any of the three publications relied upon of an infrared heater that transmits heat, via infrared rays, through a transparent header to heat not only the gas flowing through the conduit and supply device,

but also heating the substrate. Obviously, this structure is less expensive than the other structures described because it includes fewer heaters than any of the prior art structures.

Because the structures described by the two independent claims, claims 14 and 20, cannot be obvious in view of the asserted combination of publications, it follows that *prima facie* obviousness cannot have been established with regard to any pending claim that is now under examination. Accordingly, upon reconsideration, claims 14, 16, and 18-23 should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey A. Wyand, Reg. No. 29,458
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER
700 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005-3960
(202) 737-6770 (telephone)
(202) 737-6776 (facsimile)

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